

THE REHEARSAL.

The Explanatory Act of the Test in Scotland. With his Majesty's Letter of Approbation.

SATURDAY, December 7. 1706.

Country-Man.

YOU had a Dispute, Master, in your Num. 106. 107. 108. 109. with the *Flying-post*, concerning the Bishops and Clergy of Scotland. He Asserted that the Bishops in Scotland had given up all their Spiritual Right, and own'd in Parliament, that they had no other than a Lay-Authority. This he would have Inferred from the Assertory Act pass'd there in the Reign of K. Char. 2. Explaining the Power of the Crown as to the External Polity of the Church. But this, as you Answer'd, con'd not Inferred that this was the proper Act of the Bps, of whom there are but 14 in that Kingdom, and Consequently an Act of Parliament might be Carry'd against all their Votes. And you Urg'd further, to make this more Plain, that a Test being Impos'd pursuant to that Assertory Act, it was Universally Refus'd by the Bps and Clergy there (tho' there was the Penalty of Deprivation put upon the Refusers) till they obtain'd an Explanation of that Test fully saving the Rights of the Church. Now, Master, I have heard several People say, That you shou'd have given us that Explanation, if you cou'd get it, because it is not known here, and without seeing it, how can men Judge whether it be Full and Satisfactory or not?

Rehearsal. I thank you, Country-Man, for Minding me of it. I have got it in Print from Scotland. And I think it Worth Inserting here Verbatim, not so much to Vindicate me as to the *Flying-Post*, who knows it very well, and therefore has made no Reply to it; but Chiefly for the Information of English men, who are Strangers to it; and as a Standing Monument of the Christian Resolution of the Scots Bps and Clergy, who not afraid of Deprivation, have Gain'd to us a Recognition of the State to the Original and Inherent Rights of the Church of Christ upon Earth. Thus then it follows, in these words.

" Act of Council, Explanatory of the Test.
" Edinburgh the third day of Novem-
" ber, 1681.

" Forasmuch as some have Entertain'd
" Jealousies, and Prejudices against the
" Oath and Test, appointed to be taken by

" all Persons in Publick trust, Civil, Ecclesiastick, or Military, in this Kingdom, by the sixth Act of his Majesty's third Parliament, as if thereby they were to Swear to every proposition or Clause in the Confession of Faith therein mentioned; or that Invasion were made thereby upon the Intrinsic Spiritual Power of the Church, or Power of the Keys; or as if the Present Episcopal Government of this National Church, by Law Established, were thereby expos'd to the hazard of Alteration, or Subversion; all which are far from the Intention and design of the Parliaments Imposing this Oath, and from the Genuine Sense and Meaning thereof: Therefore his Royal Highness, his Majesties High Commissioner, and Lords of Privy Council do Allow, Authorize and Empower, the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, to Administer this Oath and Test, to the Ministers and Clergy in their Respective Diocesses, in this Express Sense; that though the Confession of Faith, Ratify'd in Parliament, one Thousand five Hundred Sixty and Seven, was framed in the Infancy of our Reformation, and deserves its due Praises; yet by the Test we do not Swear to every Proposition or Clause, therein contained; but only to the true Protestant Religion, Founded on the Word of GOD, contained in that Confession, as it is oppos'd to Popery and Phanaticisme. Secondly, that by the Test, or any Clause therein contained, no Invasion or Encroachment is made, or Intended upon the Intrinsic Spiritual Power of the Church, or Power of the Keys, as it was Exerced by the Apostles, and the most pure and Primitive Church in the first three Centuries after Christ, and which is still reserved Intirely to the Church. Thirdly, that the Oath and Test, is without any Prejudice to the Episcopal Government of this National Church, which is declared by the first Act of the second Session of His Majesty's first Parliament, to be most agreeable to the word of God, and most suitable to Monarchy, and which upon all occasions, His Majesty hath declared, he will Inviolably and Unalterably Preserve, and Appoints the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, to Require the Ministers in their Respective Diocesses, with the first Con-
" veniency

“ veniency to obey the Law, in Swearing
 “ and Subscribing the aforesaid Oath and
 “ Test, with Certification, that the Refu-
 “ sers shall be esteem’d Persons disaffected
 “ to the Protestant Religion, and to his
 “ Majesty’s Government, and that the Pu-
 “ nishment appointed by the foresaid sixth
 “ Act of his Majesty’s third Parliament,
 “ shall be impartially and without delay,
 “ inflicted upon them, Extracted forth of
 “ the Records of Privy-Council, by

WIL. PATERSON. Cl. Sti.
 Concilii.

His Majesties Letter of Appro- bation.

CHARLES R.

“ **M**ost Dear, and most Intirely be-
 “ loved Brother; right Trusty and
 “ well beloved Cousins and Councillors,
 “ right Trusty well beloved Councillors,
 “ and Trusty and well beloved Councillors,
 “ we Greet you well; Whereas, by one of
 “ your Letters, directed unto us, bearing date
 “ the 8th Instant; we do find that some ha-
 “ ving entertained Scruples and Prejudices
 “ against the Test, by mistaking the true Sense
 “ and Meaning thereof: And others having
 “ put false and unjust Glosses and Senses up-
 “ on it, tending to Defeat its excellent de-
 “ sign, for the Security of our Government;
 “ and that upon this Account, you found it
 “ necessary, by an Act of that our Council
 “ (which we have seen) to declare its True and
 “ Genuine sense, and to Allow and Impower
 “ the Bishops to Administer the same, in
 “ this Sense to the Clergy, in their Re-
 “ spective Diocesses: We are so well plea-
 “ sed with that Explanatory Act, that we
 “ will not delay to send you our cheer-
 “ full Approbation thereof, with our hear-
 “ ty thanks, for your Zeal in our Service
 “ upon all occasions, especially, in what Re-
 “ lates to the Security of the Persons,
 “ Rights, Interests, and Privileges, of our
 “ Orthodox Clergy; which we do now (as
 “ we have often done before) in a parti-
 “ cular manner, Recommend to your care,
 “ as a matter wherein you may Render
 “ unto us the most acceptable Services;
 “ and therefore, we do expect, that you
 “ will upon all fit occasions, give them all
 “ possible Encouragment, as these whom we
 “ have received, and will constantly shelter
 “ under our Royal Protection, against all
 “ their Enemies, so we bid you heartily
 “ Farewell.

“ Given at our Court at Whitehall, the Fif-
 “ teenth day of November, one Thousand
 “ Six Hundred eighty and one, and of
 “ our Reign, the Thretty Three Year.

By His Majesties Command.

MORRAY.

“ Directed thus.

“ To our most Dear, and most entirely
 “ beloved Brother, our Righty Trust and
 “ well beloved Cousins and Councillors,
 “ our Right Trusty and well beloved
 “ Councillors, and our James Duke of
 “ Albany and York, our High Commissioner,
 “ Trusty and well beloved Councillors,
 “ and the Lords of our Privy Council,
 “ of our Antient Kingdom of Scotland.

Country-m. But this is only an Act of
 Council, tho’ it has the King’s Approba-
 tion.

Rehears. By the Constitution in Scotland, the
 King and Council have the Explanation of
 any Act of Parliament, and it holds Good,
 Unless Revers’d by the King and Parliament.
 And this has never been Revers’d. And
 Consequently stands good Law to this Day.
 And the King in his Letter Calls it an Ex-
 planatory Act.

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